



Disaster News

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DEADLINE FOR GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFITS TO APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF FEBRUARY STORM COSTS EXTENDED UNTIL MAY 27

PASADENA, Calif. – At the request of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has extended the deadline for public agencies to apply for reimbursement of their costs related to February's storms to May 27.

"We appreciate the extension," said Henry Renteria, OES director and state coordinating officer for the disaster. "Applying for reimbursement could save city and county agencies in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura, as well as their taxpayers, 93.75 percent or more of the costs they incurred during the storms. These reimbursements are particularly important in this era of tight budgets."

"Government agencies, special districts, tribal governments and certain private non-profits in the declared counties that incurred losses between February 16 and 23 should submit their Requests for Public Assistance to OES immediately," said David Fukutomi, federal coordinating officer for FEMA. "We want to make sure all eligible parties register, so they can receive the assistance they are eligible for under the law."

Private non-profits in the affected counties may also apply for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration until June 13.

Under current law, FEMA reimburses state and local government agencies, including special districts, tribal governments and certain private non-profit organizations 75 percent of the eligible response, repair and restoration costs they incur when the President – at the request of the Governor – declares a major disaster.

As a result of the Governor's state of emergency proclamation on March 16, OES pays 75 percent of the non-federal share of disaster assistance made available to local government agencies through FEMA and other federal agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Local government agencies are responsible only for 25 percent of the non-federal share.

Funding from FEMA and the State to local agencies is usually provided in the form of reimbursements. On Wednesday, representatives from OES and FEMA completed the final in a series of briefings to provide prospective applicants in the declared counties details about eligibility, deadlines and documentation requirements for federal and state reimbursements.

Once applications for federal and state disaster assistance are approved, recovery specialists from OES and FEMA will conduct kickoff meetings and site visits with applicants to develop project worksheets that include the scope of work for, and estimated costs of, emergency response and permanent repair activities.

Applicants agencies and organizations can down load their Requests for Public Assistance and other related forms from the OES Web site at www.oes.ca.gov/RespRecover/Public/parpa.nsf/rpa?OpenForm. Completed forms may be submitted through the OES Web site, or by US Mail, to Larry Miller, State Public Assistance Officer, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, 3650 Schriever Avenue, Mather, CA. 95655, Attn: FEMA-1585-DR.

State and federal disaster officials said they recognize the impact of the storms on agencies and non-profit organizations in the declared counties and will make every effort to process reimbursement requests as quickly as possible.

OES coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The office is responsible for ensuring California's readiness to respond to and recover from natural, manmade and war-caused emergencies and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery efforts.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available to any individual without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, economic status, or disability. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against in receiving disaster assistance, you may contact one of FEMA's Equal Rights Officers (EROS) at 1-800-525-0321, or contact your State Office of Equal Rights.

EDITOR'S NOTE – BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFICIAL IMPACT OF FEDERAL AND STATE REIMBURSEMENTS TO LOCAL AND STATE AGENCIES, YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER THIS AS A BUSINESS STORY AS WELL AS A GENERAL NEWS STORY.